

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 14-16 and 21-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8, 14-16 and 21 are amended; claims 9-13, 17-20 are canceled; and new claims 22 and 23 are added. Support for the new claims may be found in the specification, at least at page 12, lines 16-19 and in Fig. 7, for example. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 4, 8-13 and 16-21 are directed to allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-7 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Chiba (U.S. Patent No. 6,489,942). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter recited in claim 9, which the Office Action indicates is allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8, 14-16 and 21 are placed in condition for allowance.

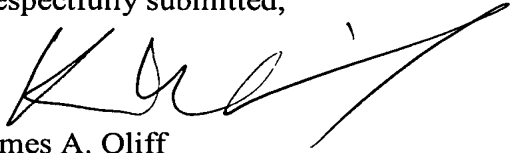
Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

Regarding new claims 22 and 23, Applicants respectfully submit that Chiba does not disclose or suggest a fetch-start-timing-setting-register and a comparator, as recited in claim 22. In Fig. 2, Chiba discloses a shift register 201. However, Chiba does not disclose or suggest a fetch-start-timing-setting-register and a comparator, as recited in claim 22. Thus, Chiba does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 22. Claim 23 depends from claim 22. Thus, Chiba does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 22 and 23.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8, 14-16 and 21-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 7, 2007

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